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Description of document: **Correspondence between the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) Alaska Region Office and Mayor Sarah Palin or the Office of the Mayor of Wasilla, Alaska between 1996 and 2002; between the NPS Alaska Region Office and Chairman Sarah Palin of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission between 2003 and 2004; between the NPS Alaska Region Office and Governor Sarah Palin or the Office of the Governor of Alaska between January 1, 2007 and September, 2008**

Requested date: 04-September-2008

Released date: 30-September-2008

Posted date: 16-October-2008

Date/date range of document: 21-March-2007 – 25-July-2008

Source of document: Alaska Region (ARO)
Paul Hunter
National Park Service
240 W 5th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907-664-3528
Fax: 907-644-3816

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7221 (AKRO-RER)
REF: NPS-2008-00685

SEP 30 2008

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated September 4, 2008, received on September 11, 2008, in which you requested:

- A copy of all correspondence between the NPS Alaska Region Office and Mayor Sarah Palin or the Office of the Mayor of Wasilla, Alaska between 1996 and 2002;
- a copy of all correspondence between the NPS Alaska Region Office and Chairman Sarah Palin of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission between 2003 and 2004;
- a copy of all correspondence between the NPS Alaska Region Office and Governor Sarah Palin or the Office of the Governor of Alaska between January 1, 2007 and the present.

In response to your request, the Alaska Regional Office located the following three documents which we are providing to you in their entirety:

1. Letter dated September 5, 2008, from Acting Regional Director to Office of the Governor,
2. Letter dated July 25, 2008, from Office of the Governor to Acting Regional Director, and
3. Letter dated March 21, 2007, from Office of the Governor to Regional Director.

The fee for providing these documents is less than \$30.00 and is, therefore, not being charged in accordance with 43 CFR 2.16(b)(2) and 2.18(a).

If you consider this response to be a denial of your request, you may file an appeal by writing to the Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, 1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop 6556, Washington, D.C. 20240, Attn: FOIA Appeals Office. For further information you can contact the FOIA Appeals Office at 202/208-5339 (telephone) or 202/208-6677 (fax). Your appeal must be received no later than 30 workdays after the date of this letter. Both the envelope and the letter should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL". A copy of your original request and this letter should accompany your appeal, along with any information you have which leads you to believe additional records exist, including where they might be found, if the location is known to you.

If you have any questions concerning your request, please contact me at the above address or as indicated below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hunter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Hunter
Regional FOIA Coordinator
Office: 907-644-3528
Fax: 907-644-3814
Email: Paul_Hunter@nps.gov



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region
240 West 5th Avenue, Room 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D66(DENA)

SEP -5 2008

Mr. Randy Ruaro, Special Staff Assistant
State of Alaska
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Mr. Ruaro:

Thank you for your letter of July 25 which expressed your concern about marking federal land boundaries in Alaska and in particular those boundaries around Denali National Park and Preserve. In the letter you expressed your concern that the Jeff King case highlights this issue. Your letter indicates that the state has been asking for federal government assistance on this issue for some time. The Alaska Region of the National Park Service is unaware of such prior request, but we would be pleased to work with the state on this issue going forward. Denali National Park staff would be available to discuss prioritizing their efforts in areas that the State of Alaska might have concerns.

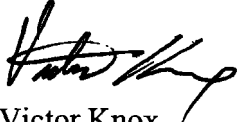
There are significant boundary marking efforts at Denali National Park, but boundary warning is difficult and expensive in the remote parks in Alaska. Denali National Park has approximately 635 miles of boundary. Given the size, remoteness, and rugged nature of the park, it is not feasible to mark the entire boundary. Even in the lower 48, most of the large parks with much higher visitation are not marked for similar reasons. In many respects, modern day Global Positioning System (GPS) technology has made conventional boundary posting on the ground unnecessary. We have found that most of the sportsmen using remote areas of Alaska utilize GPS devices. The Federal District Court in Fairbanks recently noted the ready availability and wide-spread use of hand-held GPS devices when sentencing two defendants' who had illegally killed a moose inside the northern boundary of Denali. The Court said that those sportsmen who hunted close to the boundary areas had the burden and responsibility for knowing where they were in relation to the boundary. To aid the use of GPS devices, the park is working with GPS manufacturers to improve their boundary files and to make updated GPS boundary files available to the public (<http://www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/park-boundary-info.htm>).

Every year, park personnel attempt to post critical boundary locations before the hunting and snowmobile season. The north boundary is always a priority because of the hunting pressure it receives. Unfortunately, users tear many of these markers down as fast as we can put them up; even utilizing ATV's to pull out markers that have been securely installed in hardened locations.

As you note, portions of the Denali boundary are variable and irregular. However, the area that we have had the vast majority of incidents, including the Jeff King incident, is the Stampede and north boundary areas, where the boundary runs straight along major compass bearings. We are continuing to work with the Bureau of Land Management and others to insure that the most accurate surveys possible exist for all park boundaries and that this information is made widely available to the public.

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to share our efforts and circumstances in regards to park boundaries. If the State of Alaska has suggestions or special concerns, we would very much like to work with the state to improve the public understanding of our boundaries which is essential for protecting our natural and cultural resources as well as insuring that the public enjoys park lands to the greatest extent possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Knox", written in a cursive style.

Victor Knox
Acting Regional Director

cc:

Superintendent, Denali NP&Pres
Honorable Lisa Murkowski

SARAH PALIN
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

July 25, 2008

Mr. Vic Knox
Acting Alaska Regional Director
National Park Service
240 West 5th Avenue, Suite 114
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Knox:

Mr. Jeff King was recently cited by National Park Service law enforcement authorities for taking a bull moose and using a motorized vehicle inside the boundaries of the Denali National Park and Preserve. From news accounts and the statements of Mr. King and the federal law enforcement officers it appears Mr. King was camped and hunting moose within several hundred yards of park boundaries. This letter is not intended to take any position in Mr. King's criminal court case.

Mr. King's case highlights a broader issue that the state has been asking the federal government for assistance on for quite some time: the clear marking of boundaries for federal land so hunters and fishermen are put on notice of possible changes in hunting and fishing laws if they move onto federal land. As you are aware, Alaska is a patchwork of various types of lands. Within Denali itself, there are several types of lands (National Preserve lands, Denali Wilderness lands, and National Park lands). Denali is also bordered by state lands and Denali state park. The boundary lines for Denali are also hard to follow with many 90 degree turns inward and then outward within relatively short distances.

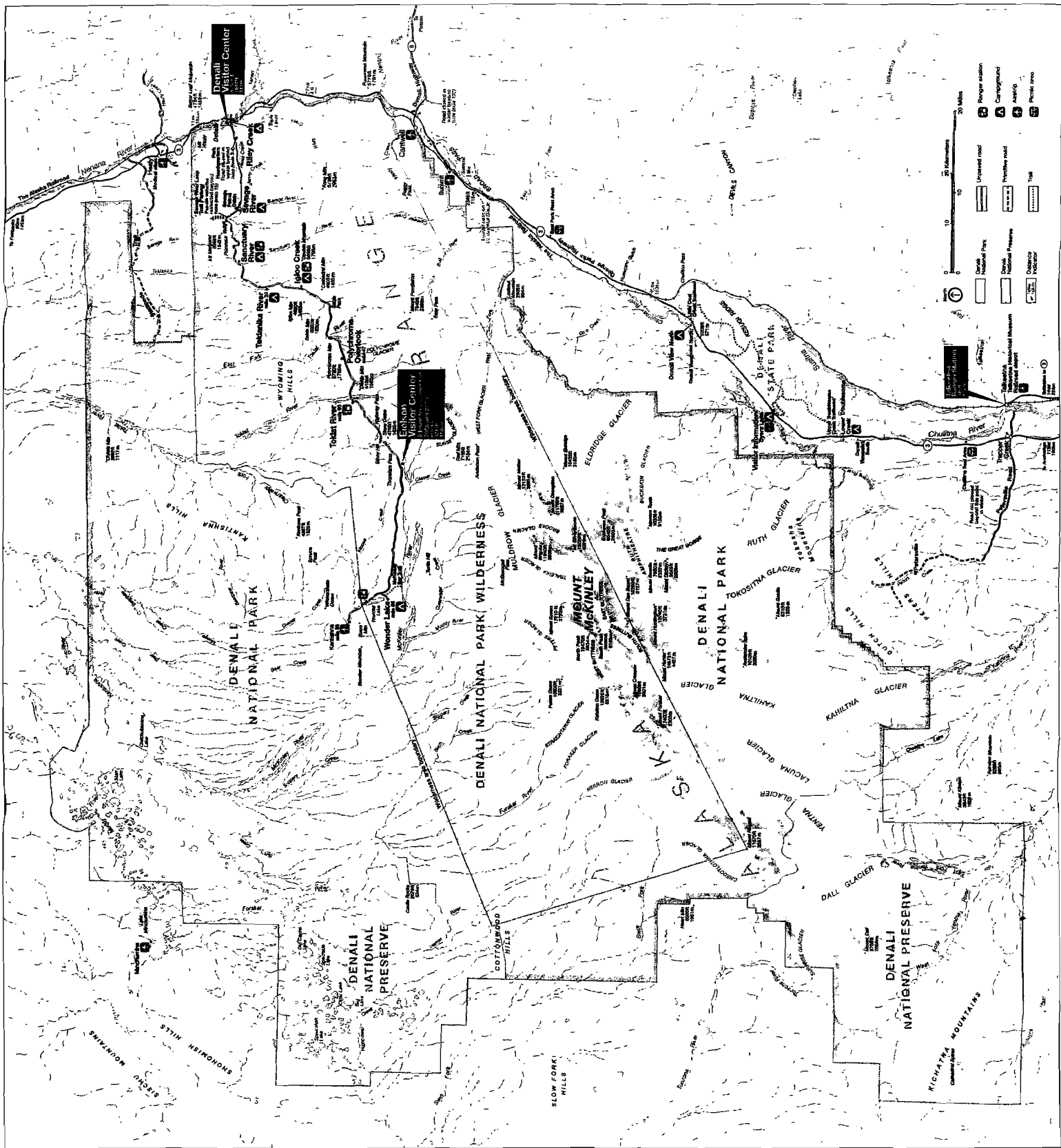
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Ruaro".

Randy Ruaro
Special Staff Assistant

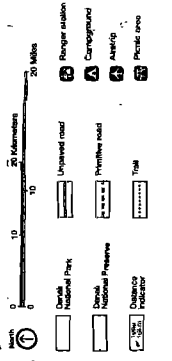
cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator
Jeff King



Denali Visitor Center

Elson Visitor Center

Denali State Park



SARAH PALIN
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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 21, 2007

Ms. Marcia Blaszak, Regional Director
Alaska Region
National Park Service
240 West Fifth Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Blaszak:

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 requires that "upon taking office, a new Governor shall officially, in writing, redesignate the present State Liaison Officer (SLO) or appoint a new individual to represent and act for the State in dealing with the LWCF program." In compliance with the LWCF Act and to maintain Alaska's eligibility to participate in this important grant program, my new administration must appoint a SLO.

The director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources is hereby appointed as state liaison officer for purposes of the Land and Water Conservation Fund program in Alaska. The grant administrator and the administrative manager, both within the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, are appointed as alternate state liaison officers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Palin".

Sarah Palin
Governor

cc: Michael D. Wilson, Chief, State and Local Assistance Programs, National Park Service
Thomas E. Irwin, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Chris Degernes, Acting Director, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources